

**New Hampshire State Council on the Arts  
Council Meeting Minutes  
January 23, 2017, 9:30 a.m.  
NH State Library, Park Street, Second Floor Conference Room, Concord, NH**

**Arts Councilors Present**

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, Angela Brown, Sara Germain, R.P. Hale, Mary McLaughlin, Tim Sink, William Stelling, Billie Tooley\* and Jason Tors\*

\* - via phone

**Arts Councilors Absent**

Vivian Beer, Elizabeth Morgan, Peter Warburton and J. Christopher Williams

**Staff Present**

Department of Cultural Resources Acting Commissioner Michael York; Department of Cultural Resources Arts Division: Ginnie Lupi, Director; Cassandra Mason, Chief Grants Officer (CGO); Julianne Gadoury, Arts Education Coordinator (AE); Kayla Schweitzer, Heritage and Traditional Arts Coordinator (HTA); and Emily Killinger, Visual Arts Associate (VAA)

**Motions (carried)**

- Accept the minutes of the November 14, 2016 meeting

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks called the meeting of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts to order at 9:30 AM on January 23, 2017.

Chair Brooks alerted everyone to an article in the *Union Leader* about the NH State Library's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Councilor Sara Germain circulated the current issue of *Art New England*, which features an article about Arts and Education and STEAM, in which AE Julianne Gadoury is quoted.

Director Ginnie Lupi introduced Kayla Schweitzer, our new Heritage and Traditional Arts Coordinator. Kayla spoke briefly about her educational and professional background.

**II. MINUTES**

Chair Brooks called for a motion to accept the minutes from the November 14, 2016 meeting. Councilor Angela Brown moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Germain. The minutes from November 14, 2016 were unanimously approved.

**III. BUSINESS**

**FY18-19 Budget Update**

Director Lupi stated that Governor Chris Sununu is expected to reveal his budget plan prior to the February 15 deadline. She feels overall Sununu's plan looks positive for the Arts Division. She expects the Governor to announce that the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) will be broken up; Economic Development and Tourism will form a new Department, and Parks and Recreation, Forests and Lands and Historic Sites will join with the DCR Divisions in a new Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Lupi went on to state that in Sununu's budget plan NHSCA's vacant Community Arts position is funded.

### **Acting Commissioner's Remarks**

Acting Commissioner Michael York explained that the Library worked with Governor Sununu on a proclamation celebrating the Library's 300<sup>th</sup>, which was read at the most recent Governor and Council meeting. He credited Shelley Angers, DCR Public Information Officer, for this and several other celebratory items related to the Anniversary. There will be events occurring all year long, including a visit from the newly appointed Head of the Library of Congress, Carla Hayden.

### **IV. STAFF REPORT**

Chair Brooks passed along a sign-up sheet for Councilors to indicate their preferences for grant panel facilitation. CGO Cassie Mason gave a brief overview of each grant category.

AE Gadoury reported that the 2017 Poetry Out Loud program is in full swing and is being done primarily in house without the use of a project coordinator as in the past few years. She passed out a hand-out (created by VAA Killinger) with all 4 Semi-Final dates and locations, and invited everyone to attend the State Finals on March 10 in Representatives Hall (6 PM). Gadoury reported that she is doing a lot of listening during this year's program to see where we can do more and where we can be of more help to the schools and students enrolled in the program.

AE Gadoury reported that the previously mentioned article in *Arts New England* didn't specifically mention NHSCA's recent Arts Education Conference, which the author attended. Councilor R.P. Hale said that the workshop he presented at the Conference was selected to be showcased at the NH Science Teachers' annual gathering in March. AE Gadoury went on to report that the Arts Learning Network will be gathering New Hampshire's top arts and science education leaders to brainstorm arts and science and how they can better work together. Additionally she reported the Arts Education grant deadlines are coming up quickly and she will be hosting a grant writing workshop on February 10. Gadoury also reported that she spoke at the recent Arts Integration Conference at Plymouth State University and attended a STEAM group meeting in Dover, NH.

CGO Mason reported that she has been participating in grantee site visits, as well as some events that were not funded by NHSCA. On World AIDS Day she attended a gallery event at Dartmouth of artwork created by HIV-positive campers from this summer's program. Other events attended by Mason include the Arts Presenters of Northern New England's meeting at the Hopkins Center, where equity and social justice were prominent topics, and Bente Torjusen's retirement party at AVA Gallery and Art Center. Mason mentioned the large number of recent ED transitions at arts organizations in New Hampshire – at least 12 new/transitioning directors in the past 12-18 months – and that NHSCA will hold a meeting for them in the spring. Additionally she was invited to attend the *Kids, Books & the Arts* artist selection meeting for the children's librarians' yearly conference. Mason was a reviewer of the latest round of NEFA NEST Grants, as well as for their Creative Communities Exchange conference coming up in June (8-9) in New London, CT. Lastly Mason attended the annual NH Theatre Awards which included a memorial to the late Commissioner McLeod.

VAA Killinger reported that she has been assisting the entire team with various programing. She reminded Councilors to reach out to her if they need Council promotional materials.

HTA Schweitzer reported she has been getting oriented and started reviewing all of her grant guidelines, learning how to use the database and completing the 2017 update to the Traditional Dance Trail brochure,

adding two new dances, bringing the total to 20 statewide. She reported attending the Welcome Concord Arts & Culture meetings, Commission on Native American Affairs, and the Arts Integration conference (with Julianne). She has also been meeting with NHSCA's field workers.

Director Lupi reported her recent work has been related to the upcoming budget as well as assisting various organizations with strategic planning, such as City Arts Nashua and Symphony NH. She mentioned some positive comments made about NHSCA during our NEA public grant review, including praise of our definition of "underserved". She went on to explain that the NEA has given us additional monies this year for the *Creativity Connects* project, which will convene artists and business leaders from across NH. She said that this project will inform NHSCA's next strategic planning phase, which is rapidly approaching.

Director Lupi gave some explanation of the status of the NEA's place in the upcoming federal budget and the potential for appointment of a new chair. The NEA has partnerships with other organizations such as Americans for the Arts (AFTA) and National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) as they prepare for the upcoming federal budget announcements.

## **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Artist Laureate* – Councilor Mary McLaughlin reported the committee met a few weeks back to discuss the list of potential laureates. A brief description of the criteria used for reviewing artists was discussed and a name was produced by the committee and it will be presented to Governor Sununu by Acting Commissioner York. The Governor's agreement is necessary before any formal announcements can be made.

*Events and Fundraising* – Councilor William Stelling reported that the committee had two meetings and has scheduled house parties to advocate for the Arts and general visibility of the Council, beginning in late March. Stelling also reported that the Governor's Arts Awards committee is working to set a date that works for the Governor, sometime this fall. The committee is also excited about additional promotional items being created by VAA Killinger.

*Government Affairs and Advocacy* – Councilor McLaughlin briefly reported the committee is exploring if it should be merged with the Events and Fundraising committee as they seem to overlap.

*Council Development and Recruitment* – No report.

*Strategic Planning* – No report.

## **VI. COUNCILOR ACTIVITIES ROUND ROBIN**

Councilor Stelling reported that he is working with a group of artists and activists to present several "pop-up" arts events, March 23 – 25 in Manchester. The project is titled "Art Front". Councilor McLaughlin reported working with the NH Furniture Masters on their upcoming exhibits. Councilor Brown reported that in December at her school board meeting she encouraged her board to sing together prior to finalizing their budget as it is proven that singing together can promote/encourage feelings of good will. Brown was able to attend the Women's March on Washington last week, where the favorite sign she saw read "Take your broken hearts and turn them into art". Finally Brown reported that in the spring she will be the newest member of the Music for Healing and Transition national board of directors. Councilor Hale reported that he continues his work on the artist committee of The League of NH Craftsmen. Councilor Germain reported she was recently appointed to the exhibition committee of the New Hampshire Institute of Art's Sharon Arts Center in Peterborough. She also reports that Peterborough Players is presenting its first ever winter season, which seems successful thus far. Chair Brooks reported that he had the honor of going to the Currier Museum of Art to meet new director Alan Chong.

## VII. ADJOURN

- Motion to adjourn from the business meeting: Councilor Brown
- Second: Councilor Stelling
- Nays: None
- Recusals: None

Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 12:01 PM.



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